CASE STUDY

McLaren Honda adopts NTT Communications Enterprise Cloud and Business Networks as data drives Formula 1

McLAREN HONDA

"To achieve our cloud and mobility goals, we needed a new ICT solution that met the requirements of all our group companies.

We are very big on security, particularly the security of our data. It had been an ongoing concern for us, particularly with multiple network carriers. There was the constant danger of potential vulnerabilities..."

Craig Charlton, Chief Information Officer, McLaren Technology Group

Background:

McLaren Technology Group is globally renowned as one of the world's most illustrious high-technology brands. Since its foundation in 1963, McLaren has been pioneering and innovating in the competitive world of Formula 1, forging a formidable reputation which has seen the racing team win 20 World Championships and over 180 races.

McLaren Technology Group is known primarily for more than 50 years of heritage in the Formula 1 world. McLaren Racing, in conjunction with Honda, aims to win the F1 Grand Prix World Championship every year, but there are other business arms to the McLaren empire.

McLaren Automotive focuses on the construction of supercars and hypercars. The McLaren F1 held the world speed record for a production car for 10 years and their new production facility, building McLaren designed cars with their own engines, chassis and gearboxes, is ramping up to produce 5000 annually cars by 2020.

McLaren Applied Technology is the high growth arm, using technologies developed for Grand Prix racing in the fields of transportation, health, aviation and financial services.

Objectives:

The requirement was to provide robust, reliable, rapid data transfer as a shared infrastructure for McLaren businesses and, as a by-product of this consolidation, reduce operational costs.

McLaren identified increased global agility as being crucial to long term IT success, using private and public cloud infrastructure.

Craig Charlton, Chief Information Officer, McLaren Technology Group said, "Our IT strategy focuses on 5 big ideas. If you step back from the glitz and glamour of Formula 1, you will see that McLaren is a medium sized business, with IT challenges similar to many others, albeit with an unusual focus on high tech, rapid innovation."

NTT Europe Ltd.
Email: info@ntt.eu
Visit us online at www.eu.ntt.com

NTT Communications
Transform. Transcend.

McLAREN HONDA

"NTT Communications provides robust, rapid and reliable solutions. McLaren companies and partners can all securely connect to various cloud services such as private Enterprise Cloud, which enables more collaborative working and co-innovation projects to progress by removing friction. It really does power the work that we do."

Craig Charlton, Chief Information Officer, McLaren Technology Group

"To achieve our cloud and mobility goals, we needed a new ICT solution that met the requirements of all our group companies and the partnership with NTT Communications arrived at a perfect time for us. There is no 'one size fits all solution, of course, but there are plenty of opportunities for common platforms and standard solution that meet similar requirements in all the McLaren businesses."

Challenges:

Outside of the racing environment though, McLaren has a number of global engineering and design specialists that need access to data to support the F1 team. It has a global network of dealerships to support its automotive business. It runs a staggering number of simulations to support race analysis and also for its Applied Technologies business to simulate, for example, oil and gas drilling.

When moving to a cloud system, McLaren wanted reassurance on fundamentals: "We are very big on security, particularly the security of our data," says Craig, "It had been an ongoing concern for us, particularly with multiple network carriers. There was the constant danger of potential vulnerabilities so private Enterprise Cloud is one of the directions we wanted to take."

Solution:

"I sometimes joke that the race car is the fastest piece of IP equipment on our network," explains Craig, "On race day, you may think that the people in the pit lane control everything, but in reality the data that has been gathered is sent back to two 'Mission Control' centers in the McLaren Technology Centre in Woking (UK) and to Honda in Sakura (Japan). This is where the crucial race decisions are taken by strategists, engine performance engineers, aerodynamicists, chassis engineers and gearbox engineers. The network we have needs to be capable of dealing with this immense race day pressure as well as supporting the rest of the business in its daily activities."

"We generate around 100 Gigabytes of data per race and there are 21 races a year. Having mountains of data (and we have collected over 1 trillion data points in the last 19 years) is one thing," explains Craig, "Finding the rich insights that allow the race car to go faster or, for example, to improve the output of a production line in the Applied Technologies business, is another thing altogether."

For McLaren Racing, NTT Communications provides a network environment that underpins the other McLaren businesses, enabling strategic and technology partners to also support McLaren businesses.

NTT Europe Ltd.
Email: info@ntt.eu
Visit us online at www.eu.ntt.com

NTT Communications
Transform. Transcend.

McLAREN HONDA

“With the new network in place we don’t have to think about ‘where’ anymore. We can do anything, anywhere. We really have that much flexibility.

McLaren wants to be the fastest in F1 again, and the connected partnership with NTT Communications is helping to catapult our business into the ICT future.”

Craig Charlton, Chief Information Officer, McLaren Technology Group

Benefits:

Using NTT Communications networks, McLaren has succeeded in saving both infrastructure and resource costs, but over and above that, it is the increased agility of more standard business process and the increased connectivity that have given the most benefits.

“In my view, the monolithic ERP is dead,” states Craig, “ICT specialists have the choice now to select from a wide range of solutions to support finance, HR, procurement and other departments and these solutions can be in the cloud (whether private or public), on premises, or legacy, depending on what suits the consumption model of the business. This means that it is more important than ever that the underlying infrastructure is robust, reliable, rapid, secure, agile, dynamic and responsive.”

“With the new network in place we don’ t have to think about ‘where’ anymore. We can do anything, anywhere. We really have that much flexibility.”

The next step for McLaren is to begin co-innovation to enable the rich insights that give the performance benefits that McLaren craves. “The real challenge for us,” says Craig, “Is how to use IT to make the car go faster and to power our other businesses.”

“In McLaren we say that our race car is already a connected car. In that sense, we have been in the IoT business for nearly 20 years already but there is a lot more co-innovation that can be achieved. These are exciting and interesting times as we gather data from areas that we could not get before. This will take race management to a whole new level and NTT Communications can help make that happen.”

“I have high expectations for this partnership in the future,” Craig finishes, “So far, working with NTT Communications has been a positive experience; the teams we have worked with are capable, passionate and great team players. McLaren wants to be the fastest in F1 again, and the connected partnership with NTT Communications is helping to catapult our business into the ICT future.”

NTT Europe Ltd.
Email: info@ntt.eu
Visit us online at www.eu.ntt.com

NTT Communications
Transform. Transcend.

Contact Us: info@ntt.eu

www.eu.ntt.com

Connect with us:

NTT Communications offices in Europe and the Middle East

NTT Europe Ltd. (Headquarters)

1 King William Street
London
EC4N 7AR
United Kingdom

Benelux
+31 23 569 8340

France
+33 1 73 02 02 03

Germany
+49 69 1338 68 000

Spain
+34 902 250 280

Sweden
+46 8 27 81 04

United Arab Emirates
+971 4 426 4866

United Kingdom
+44 20 7977 1000

MHCS0617-1